



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
1 Natural Resource Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205

Effective Date: October 15, 2021
Expiration Date: October 15, 2021
Final Report Due Date: April 15, 2022
File Symbol: 21AR07

Attn: Brandi Reynolds

The Environmental Protection Agency hereby issues a specific exemption under the provisions of Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, as amended, to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (ADA) for the use of thiamethoxam (CAS No. 153719-23-4), on rice to control the rice stink bug in Arkansas. This specific exemption is subject to the conditions set forth in your request dated August 20, 2021, as well as the following conditions, modifications, and restrictions:

1. The ADA is responsible for ensuring that all provisions of this quarantine exemption are met. ADA is responsible for providing information in accordance with 40 CFR 166.32(b). Accordingly, a final report summarizing the results of this program must be submitted to EPA headquarters and the EPA region 6 office within 6 months following the expiration of this exemption or prior to requesting another specific exemption for this use. In accordance with 40 CFR 166.32(a) these offices shall also be immediately informed of any adverse effects resulting from the use of this pesticide in connection with this exemption.
2. The registered product, Endigo[®] ZC Insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 100-1276, containing 12.60% thiamethoxam and co-formulated with 9.48% lambda-cyhalothrin which is already registered for use on rice) manufactured by Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC., may be applied. All applicable directions for use, restrictions, and precautions on the EPA-registered product label including Worker Protection Standards must be followed, as well as those outlined on the Section 18 use directions submitted with your request, unless otherwise modified in this authorization document.
3. Up to four applications of Endigo[®] ZC Insecticide may be made by aerial equipment only, at a rate of 4.5 - 6.0 fl. oz./A/application (0.0415 - 0.0553 lb. thiamethoxam and 0.0309 - 0.0413 lb. lambda-cyhalothrin) not to exceed an annual maximum application rate of 18.5 fl. oz./A/year (0.170 lb. of thiamethoxam and 0.120 lb. of lambda-cyhalothrin).
4. A 14-day pre-harvest interval (PHI), a 5-day retreatment interval (RTI) and a 24-hour restricted entry interval (REI) must be observed.
5. To mitigate potential risks to aquatic taxa, the following restrictions must be observed: "Do not release flood water within 7 days of an application" and "Do not use treated rice fields for the aquaculture of edible fish and crustacea."

6. A maximum of 300,000 acres of rice fields may be treated in the following counties in Arkansas: Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Clay, Conway, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Franklin, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Mississippi, Monroe, Perry, Phillips, Poinsett, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Francis, White, Woodruff, and Yell.
7. Applications made in accordance with the above provisions are not expected to exceed combined residues of thiamethoxam, including its metabolites and degradates, in or on rice, grain at 6.0 ppm and rice, straw at 2.0 ppm. The Agency has determined these levels are adequate to protect public health. Time-limited tolerances established in connection with a previous Section 18 action under 40 CFR §180.565(b) in or on rice, grain at 6.0 ppm and rice, straw at 2.0 ppm support this emergency use.
8. Section 18 use of thiamethoxam on rice results in potential clothianidin (a major metabolite of thiamethoxam) residues, that when combined with the residues from the Section 3 use of clothianidin would result in residues above the current tolerance at 40 CFR §180.586(a) of 0.01 ppm for rice, grain. However, applications made in accordance with the above provisions are not expected to exceed combined residues of clothianidin in or on rice, grain at 0.50 ppm. The Agency has determined this level is adequate to protect public health. A time-limited tolerance for residues of clothianidin established in connection with a previous Section 18 action under 40 CFR §180.586(b) in or on rice, grain at 0.50 ppm supports this emergency use.

This is the first year that ADA has requested an emergency exemption under Section 18 of FIFRA for use of thiamethoxam (co-formulated with lambda-cyhalothrin) in rice to control rice stink bug. The registrant, Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC has submitted a PRIA application for a Section 3 registration for this use on rice, which is currently under review. Therefore, progress toward registration is adequate at this time.

In the event the ADA requests an emergency exemption for this use next year, EPA is making a preliminary determination that this use is not eligible for a streamlined application under the re-certification program (40 CFR 166.20(b)(5)) because an alternative tool that was unavailable this year due to market shortage is expected to be available to rice growers during the 2022 use season.

Any future correspondence in connection with this exemption should refer to file symbol: 21AR07.

If you have any questions with respect to this authorization, please contact the Emergency Response Team Leader, Tawanda Maignan at (703) 308-8050; maignan.tawanda@epa.gov.

Ed Messina, Esq., Director
Office of Pesticide Programs

cc: USEPA Region 6- Regional Coordinators, Robert Lushek
USEPA Regional 6 Tribal Coordinator, Monica Smith